FDI policy for media and broadcasting sector

1841. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether interlinking of FDI policy for media and broadcasting sector has been considered by Government;

(b) if so, whether Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has pointed out that there should be an interlinking FDI policy across news, entertainment, TV, cable, newspapers, magazines, radio, etc.;

(c) if so, the decision taken in this regard; and

(d) the changes that are being considered by Government and by when these are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), in its recommendations on the licencing issues relating to the Second Phase of Private F.M. Radio Broadcasting, has recommended that the FDI policy should be reviewed along with the policies in other segments of the media sector. TRAI has made a similar recommendation for cable TV and DTH in the recommendations on "Issues relating to Broadcasting and Distribution of TV channels". No decision has been taken, as yet, in the matter and no time-frame can be indicated for final decision at this juncture.

Voodooism and superstition on TV channels

1842. DR. CHHATTRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(A) whether some TV channels are telecasting programmes which encourage voodooism and superstition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government are taking to ban such programmes?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, no specific complaint has been received in this regard. All programmes transmitted/retransmitted through cable network are required to adhere to the provisions of the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. Programme Code, *inter alia,* prescribes that no programme should be carried in the cable service which encourages superstition or blind belief.

Under Section 20 the Cable Act, the Central Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to look into the violation of the Programme Code. On the recommendations of the Committee, appropriate action is taken against the TV channels. This is a continuous process.

As regards Doordarshan, Doordarshan has informed that none of its channels telecast programmes of this nature.

Optical Disc Law

1843. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of enacting an Optical Disc Law;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) what are the other measures, apart from Optical Disc Law, that Government are taking to reduce the menace of video piracy?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government has received a proposal to enact an Optical Disc Law and are in consultation with related Departments and the stakeholders regarding the same.

(c) The Copyright Act, 1957, which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development provides the legal basis for the subsistence of copyright in cinematograph films and music. The responsibility for dealing with offences under the Copyright Act rests with